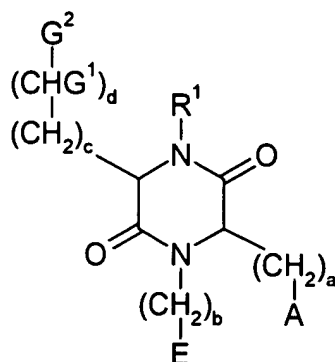


ABSTRACT

Described herein are novel and useful compounds of the general formula



Formula (I).

Compounds of this invention can advantageously exhibit melanocortin receptor agonist activity. New and useful compounds comprising such a chemical structure and methods of modulating melanocortin receptor activity in a subject (and promoting, inducing, and/or enhancing the treatment or prevention of related diseases) by administering such a compound or composition also are described.